

Appl. No. 10/500,668
Amdt. Dated November 6, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): Support for rolling a cylindrical element, this support comprising first guide means capable of guiding the cylindrical element at a height z_1 , characterized in that downstream in the direction in which the cylindrical element rolls, the said support comprises second guide means capable of guiding the cylindrical element at a height z_2 higher than z_1 , wherein an amount of friction between the said second guide means and the cylindrical element is lower than an amount of friction between the first guide means and the cylindrical element and also the first guide means comprise a Vee shaped roller.

Claim 15 (previously presented): Support according to claim 14, characterized in that the said second guide means are capable of authorizing a rotation of the cylindrical elements around an axis of these cylindrical elements.

Claim 16 (previously presented): Support according to claim 14, characterized in that the second guide means comprise at least two ball bearings designed to be in contact with the said cylindrical elements.

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Claim 17 (previously presented): Support according to claim 16, characterized in that the said ball bearings are made of stainless steel.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): Support according to claim ~~16~~ 18, characterized in that housings for the second guide means comprise two ball bearings each are having their housing angled at 45° with respect to a main axis of the support, perpendicular to the direction in which the cylindrical elements roll.

Claim 20 (previously presented): Support according to claim 19, characterized in that the two ball bearings are positioned such that one of them is situated upstream of the other, in the direction in which the cylindrical elements roll.

Claim 21 (previously presented): Support according to claim 14, characterized in that the support comprises a lateral adjustment system for the assembly that moves the cylindrical element wherein the lateral adjustment system is formed by the first and the second guide means, as well as a vertical adjustment system for this same assembly formed by the first and the second guide means.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Support according to claim 14, characterized in that the support comprises means capable of adjusting the difference between the height z1 and the height z2.

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Claim 23 (previously presented): Support according to claim 14, characterized in that the difference between the height z1 and the height z2 is approximately 0.5 mm.

Claim 24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): Cylindrical element transport device, characterized in that it comprises at least one support according to any of claims 14 to 23 ~~24~~, each support being capable of authorizing the rolling of the said cylindrical elements.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Method of transporting cylindrical elements on at least one support, according to any of claims 14 to 23 ~~24~~, characterized in that the cylindrical elements, when they pass on each support, undergo the following steps:

- primary guiding with the aid of first guide means,
- secondary guiding substituting the primary guiding with the aid of second guide means, the friction resulting from the secondary guiding being lower than the friction resulting from the primary guiding.